

# KANSAS RECIPIENTS OF THE 1999 SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, it gives me extreme pleasure to have the honor of recognizing the Kansas recipients of the Scholastic Art & Writing Award. These nineteen students have excelled in the use of visual arts and the written word. This year's recipients are Matt Anderson, Ebony Blackmon, Matthew Calcara, Martha Clifford, Lisa Coogias, Audrey Dennis, Josephine Herr, Amy Kleinschmidt, Paris Levin, Angela Mai, Curtis Mourn, Nathan Novack, Cody Palmer, Hank Peltzer, Joanna Spaulding, Matthew Stewart, Adriene Swisher, Andrew Tanner, Sarah Wertzberger.

To earn a Scholastic Art & Writing Award, these 19 students were chosen out of 250,000 applicants from across the United States, Canada, U.S. Territories, and U.S. sponsored schools abroad. Their talent illustrates some of the best work in student art and writing. These students should be commended, as should all those responsible for inspiring them and fostering their success.

I congratulate all of the students on their success. As outstanding representatives of Kansas, their work well represents the youth of our State.

Again, congratulations on your outstanding work and I wish you the best in all of your future endeavors.●

## NORWICH NATIVE SON, DR. WILLIAM R. WILSON JR.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, few touch the lives of others in so personal a manner as doctors, and this relationship takes on an even more special meaning when the patients are children. Dr. William Wilson Jr. has worked to ensure that young children with severe heart ailments receive the very finest medical care available. He has been instrumental in advancing many of the recent breakthroughs in heart surgery, and it gives me great pleasure to recognize the achievements of this remarkable man as he is awarded the 1999 Norwich Native Son award for his work within the medical profession.

The Norwich Native Son award is presented to that native of Norwich, Connecticut who has made significant contributions to his or her field outside of the state of Connecticut. As a pediatric cardiovascular surgeon in Missouri, Dr. Wilson has established himself as a leader within the medical profession and continues to enlighten the field with his knowledge and expertise. His innovative procedures are used throughout the country to educate new generations of doctors helping to ensure that this country remains a leader in medical advances.

Born, raised, and educated in Norwich, Dr. Wilson ventured beyond Connecticut's borders to earn his bachelor's degree in biology from Kenyon

College. He soon returned to the state to attend the University of Connecticut where he received his doctorate in anatomy and cell biology and, eventually, his medical degree in 1983.

Currently making his home in Missouri, he is the Chief of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at the Children's Hospital, University Hospital and Clinics in Columbia. It is at the University Hospital and Clinics that Dr. Wilson has changed hundreds of children's lives. Dr. Wilson performs delicate procedures on infants and young children with severe heart defects giving countless children an opportunity for healthy normal lives.

Dr. Wilson began performing his advanced heart procedures while serving as the Chief of the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Division of the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. Dr. Wilson's breakthrough techniques helped to transform the Medical College of Ohio into the regional leader in performing these surgeries. He has also expanded his work to include heart transplantation, and to date, he has performed this procedure on over 125 adults and children.

Dr. Wilson has also distinguished himself internationally through several outreach programs. Twice he has organized mobile surgical teams and traveled to countries where these vital procedures are unavailable to those in need.

In 1996, Dr. Wilson journeyed to Peru where he performed surgery on 15 local children. He most recently led a medical mission to the children's hospital in Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia, where he operated on 11 children. Moreover, he has brought children from other countries to medical facilities in the United States to undergo surgery in modern hospitals. His humanitarian efforts have helped shed light on the over one million children worldwide who suffer from heart ailments and on the desperate need for these procedures in other countries.

Mr. President, I take special pride, along with the Wilson family, in recognizing the wonderful accomplishments of Dr. William Wilson. While he may no longer live in Norwich, he has never forgotten the lessons learned from this close-knit community. Dr. William Wilson is being honored for his noble efforts within the medical field by friends and neighbors who fondly remember the spirited young boy who grew up in Norwich and who are so proud of the caring healer he has become. I wish him much success as he continues to leave his mark on the medical community, and I congratulate him for being honored with this most deserved award.●

## TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAIN (MG) DONALD W. SHEA

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding military officer, Chaplain Donald W.

Shea, upon his retirement from the Army after more than 33 years of dedicated service. Throughout his career, Chaplain Shea has served with distinction, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and to commend him for the superb service he has provided the United States Army and our nation.

Chaplain Shea's retirement on 30 June 1999 will bring to a close over three decades of dedicated service to the United States Army. Born and raised in Butte, Montana, Chaplain Shea attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana and graduated from The Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1962 for the Diocese of Helena and commissioned as a U.S. Army chaplain and entered active duty in August 1966.

During his career Chaplain Shea has contributed to every available facet of religious ministry in our armed forces. Entering active duty during a very difficult period for our military and Nation, he provided the leadership and ministering that was invaluable to our forces in the Vietnam conflict. Following this conflict, during which he distinguished himself to seniors and peers alike, Chaplain Shea went on to serve in a variety of positions through his career. He was nominated on May 20, 1994 by President Clinton for promotion to Major General and following his Senate confirmation was appointed Chief of Army Chaplains on September 1, 1994.

As Chief of Chaplains he held the Army staff responsible for the religious, moral, and spiritual welfare for the total Army. He focused and advised the Army leadership in dealing with and resolving a number of difficult issues facing today's force. Of note was his establishment of a Chaplain Recruiting Program within the US Army Recruiting Command to aggressively recruit the best-qualified candidates from all denominations, the successful relocation of the Army Chaplain Center and School from Fort Monmouth, NJ to Fort Jackson, SC and as President of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board, he shaped joint methodologies by which Service Chiefs of Chaplain and their staffs approached common issues.

Chaplain Shea has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal with six Campaign Stars, Vietnam Civil Actions Medal (First Class), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Medal (with "3" device), Senior Parachute Badge, Special Forces Tab, Bundeswehr Parachute Badge, and the Vietnamese Parachute Badge.

Chaplain Shea will retire from the Department of the Army June 30, 1999, after thirty-three years of dedicated service. On behalf of my colleagues I wish Chaplain Shea fair winds and following seas. Congratulations on an outstanding career.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOE BEYRLER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Joe Beyrle, a World War II veteran and long-time friend from Norton Shores, Michigan. Joe Beyrle's service during the war was truly extraordinary.

As an eighteen-year-old in 1942, Joe Beyrle enlisted in the Army, later volunteering for the parachute infantry. Joe quickly distinguished himself as a member of the 101st Airborne Division stationed in England. Early in his service Joe was twice chosen to make dangerous jumps into Nazi-occupied France while fitted with bandoliers filled with gold for the French Resistance. Joe's last jump into France was on the night before D-Day with the objective of destroying two wooden bridges behind Utah Beach. However, while on his way to accomplish this mission, Joe was captured by the Germans.

On June 10, 1944, the parents of Joe Beyrle received a letter from the United States Government informing them that their son had perished while serving his country in France. On September 17, 1944, family and friends held a funeral mass for Joe at St. Joseph's Church in Muskegon, Michigan. However, Joe was still alive and being held in a POW camp. A dead German soldier wearing an American uniform and Joe's dog tags had been mistakenly identified as Joe.

Joe was eventually able to escape from his captors and later joined a Russian tank unit to continue the fight against the Germans. Joe fought with the Russians until an injury forced him to be sent to a Moscow hospital. When he finally regained his strength, Joe went to the American Embassy in Moscow and was eventually sent back to the United States. On September 14, 1946, almost two years after the funeral mass in his honor, Joe Beyrle married his wife, JoAnne, in the very same church.

I ask to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article which appeared recently in the Detroit Free Press regarding Joe Beyrle. The article highlights in greater detail the extraordinary experience of Joe Beyrle during World War II. I know my Senate Colleagues will join me in honoring Joe Beyrle on his tremendous sacrifice and service to our nation.

The article follows:

WORLD WAR II VET HOLDS ON TO A SPECIAL APPRECIATION OF LIFE  
(By Ron Dzwonkowski)

Memorial Day has to be a little strange for Joe Beyrle, even after all these years. He pays tribute to the nation's war dead knowing that, for a time, he was among them. Even had a funeral with full honors.

"Oh, what parents went through," says Beyrle, (pronounced buy early.) "My mother would never talk about it. My dad wouldn't at first. But I finally talked to him at some length. The emotions . . . well, it was quite a talk."

Beyrle, who will turn 76 this summer and lives in Norton Shores, south of Muskegon, was among the hundreds of thousands of young Americans who enlisted in the Armed Forces to fight World War II. A strapping 18-year-old, he passed up a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and volunteered in June 1942 for what was then called the parachute infantry.

By September of '43, Beyrle was in England with the 101st Airborne Division.

His commanders must have seen something of the rough-and-ready in the young man from western Michigan, for Beyrle was twice chosen to parachute into Nazi-occupied France wearing bandoliers laden with gold for the French Resistance. After each jump, he had to hide for more than a week until he could be returned to his unit in England.

Then came D-Day. Beyrle's unit jumped into France on the night before the invasion, assigned to disrupt Nazi defenses for the huge frontal assault.

The going was rough. Beyrle saw several planes full of his comrades go down in flames before he hit the silk from 400 feet up, landing on the roof of a church. Under fire from the steeple, he slid down into a cemetery and set out for his demolition objective, two wooden bridges behind Utah Beach.

Beyrle never made it. He was on the loose for about 20 hours while the battle raged on the beaches, and he did manage to blow up a power station and some trucks, slash the tires on the other Nazi vehicles and lob some grenades into clusters of Hitler's finest. But then he crawled over a hedgerow, fell into a German machine gun nest and was captured.

What followed was a long ordeal of brutality and terror as the Germans herded the American POWs inland while being hammered by Allied bombs and artillery. Beyrle was hit by shrapnel, but had to shake it off so he could apply tourniquets to two men whose legs were blown off. He escaped once for about 16 hours, but ran back into a German patrol.

Somewhere in all this chaos, Beyrle lost his dog tags, those little metal necklaces that identify military personnel. They ended up around the neck of a German soldier who was killed in France on June 10, wearing an American uniform, probably an infiltrator.

In early September, the dreaded telegram arrived for Beyrle's parents in Muskegon, the one that includes the nation's "deep sympathy for your loss."

The body believed to be Joe Beyrle was buried in France under a grave marker bearing his name. A funeral mass was held on Sept. 17, 1994, at St. Joseph's Church in Muskegon. Beyrle's name was inscribed on a plaque honoring the community's war dead.

Joe Beyrle, meantime, was being hauled by train all over Europe, locked in about a half-dozen POW camps, beaten, interrogated and nearly starved. But he never quit trying to escape, and finally managed it in January 1945, as the Nazi war machine was starting to crumble under the onslaught of Americans on the west and Russians from the east. Beyrle hooked up with a Russian tank unit and fought with them for a month before he was wounded and shipped to a hospital outside Moscow.

When he was able, Beyrle made his way to the U.S. embassy in the Russian capital, but he had a terrible time convincing officials of his identity, especially since he was listed as dead. He was actually arrested and grew so frustrated that he jumped one of his guards in an attempt to escape.

Fingerprints finally proved that Joe Beyrle was alive and well.

The next telegram to Muskegon carried a much happier message.

On Sept. 14, 1946, Joe Beyrle married his wife, JoAnne, in the same church where his funeral mass was held two years earlier. The same priest presided at both. Almost 53 years later, JoAnne says with a smile that her husband's war stories "get better every year."

This weekend, Beyrle will rejoin the 101st for ceremonies honoring its war dead at Arlington National Cemetery. Then he's off to Europe to walk once again over the ground where he fought and bled for freedom. He will even visit the grave that for months was thought to hold his body.

"Some of them aren't even sure what war I'm talking about," he said. "They really don't understand that I felt it was my duty to volunteer, and what went on and what it was like. I tell them that if it wasn't for what we did, they would all be marching the goose-step today, and the first question is, 'what's the goose-step?'"

"I grew up real fast. We all had to," Beyrle said. "You just learn to believe that somebody up there is looking out for you. . . . I came home with such an appreciation of life, and I don't think I've ever lost it."

He came home with a handful of medals, too, but doesn't consider himself a hero.

"There were 200 guys in my unit that jumped into Normandy, and 50 or 60 were killed in action right there, maybe 40 were wounded; five or six were captured," Beyrle says. "I'm just one of the lucky ones. The heroes are the guys who didn't make it back."●

#### RETIREMENT OF JOHN P. REZENDES, PRINCIPAL OF EDWARD R. MARTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, on June 21st, family, friends and colleagues will gather to honor John P. Rezendes, who has served East Providence public schools for 30 years, and is retiring as Principal of Edward R. Martin Junior High School.

John Rezendes built his career in Rhode Island, just as he received his education in our state. He graduated from East Providence Senior High School in 1965, received a bachelor's and a master's degree from Providence College, and later pursued additional studies at Rhode Island College.

Over the years, John Rezendes has amassed an impressive record of public service. During his tenure in the East Providence public school system, John has worked with students in a variety of capacities, including as a classroom teacher, a "House Leader," and a principal.

Early in his career, John served as a history and civics teacher at Central Junior High School. In 1977, when a new facility was constructed to replace Central Junior High School, John was one of the first faculty members to occupy this new "four house facility." That same year, he was promoted to House Leader where he continued a close relationship with his students and built a strong working relationship with the teachers he supervised.

In 1983, John was appointed Principal of Riverside Junior High School. In this capacity, he brought many personal touches to the school. His work